

URBAN DISTRICT OF WIRRAL.



R E P O R T

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

JOHN HATTON, M.D., D.P.H .

FOR THE YEAR

1 9 4 2.

Presented by J.B.YEOMAN, M.D., F.R.C.S.(Edin.), D.P.H.
Barrister-at-Law.

Acting Medical Officer.

WIRRAL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

This report for the year 1942 concerns a period prior to the departure of the Medical Officer of Health, Dr. John Hatton, on active service in His Majesty's Navy.

To comply with wartime requirements it is meagre and a mere unclothed skeleton by comparison with the detailed treatment, item by item, in statistical tables, commentaries and suggestions, which were demanded by the Ministry in pre-war days. However, it serves the purpose of obviating any rupture in the sequence of Annual Reports.

The Chief Sanitary Inspector provides the matters which are concerned with environmental hygiene. Without the aid of this Official and the valuable assistance which he has freely proffered to me, my task in the resumption of duty would have been much more onerous than it proved. To this Officer I tender my thanks.

J. B. YEOMAN

Acting Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (acres).....	5,639
Registrar-General's Estimate of Resident Population (mid-1942).....	17,390
Number of inhabited houses.....	4,589
Rateable value.....	£139,606
Sum represented by a penny rate	£562

The area is residential and agricultural.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1942.

		<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	
Live Births)	Legitimate	256	136	120	Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population..15.35
	Illegitimate	11	5	6	
Stillbirths		9	2	7	
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births					32.6
Birth Rate for England and Wales					15.8

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	
Deaths	189	96	93	
Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population...				10.86
Death Rate for England and Wales				11.3

Deaths from puerperal causes:-

	<u>Deaths.</u>	<u>Rate per 1,000 total (live and still)births</u>
Puerperal & post abortive sepsis.....	Nil	-
Other maternal causes	1	-
Total	1	3.62

Death rate of infants under 1 year of age:-

All infants per 1,000 live births	26.21
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	19.53
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births..	181.81
Infant mortality rate for England and Wales.....	60.0

Deaths from Cancer (all ages).....	24
Deaths from Measles (all ages).....	-
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages).....	-
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years).....	-
Deaths at various ages during 1942 :-	

Age	Number of Deaths
Under 1 year	7
1 year and under 2	4
2 years and under 5	1
5 years and under 15	3
15 years and under 25	8
25 years and under 35	7
35 years and under 45	12
45 years and under 55	12
55 years and under 65	29
65 years and under 75	44
75 years and upwards	62
Total	189

Infantile Deaths

The causes of death of children under the age of one year are shewn below.

Net deaths from stated causes at various ages under one year of age.

Cause of Death	Under 1 week	1 - 2 weeks	2 - 3 weeks	3 - 4 weeks	4 wks. & under 3 months	3 - 6 months	6 - 9 months	9 - 12 months	Total deaths under 1 year.
Pneumonia	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Bronchitis	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Premature Birth	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	3
Cerebro spinal meningitis	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Congenital Malformation, Birth Injury & Infantile Diseases.	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	4
TOTAL.....	4	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	7

CAUSES OF DEATH

The table below was compiled from figures supplied by the Registrar-General, and the classification is given according to the cause of death.

Causes of Death	Males	Females	Total
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers...	-	-	-
2. Cerebro spinal fever	-	2	2
3. Scarlet Fever.....	-	-	-
4. Whooping Cough	-	-	-
5. Diphtheria	1	1	2
6. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System.....	6	3	9
7. Other forms of Tuberculosis.....	2	3	5
8. Syphilitic diseases	-	-	-
9. Influenza	2	0	2
10. Measles	-	-	-
11. Acute polio-myelitis and polio- encephalitis	-	-	-
12. Acute infectious encephalitis ...	-	-	-
13. Cancer of buccal cavity and oesophagus(M.) Uterus (F).....	1	1	2
14. Cancer of stomach and duodenum ..	1	0	1
15. Cancer of breast	-	4	4
16. Cancer of all other sites	8	9	17
17. Diabetes	1	-	1
18. Intra-cranial vascular lesions ..	7	10	17
19. Heart Disease	30	22	52
20. Other diseases of circulatory system.....	5	5	10
21. Bronchitis	4	6	10
22. Pneumonia	2	2	4
23. Other respiratory diseases	3	-	3
24. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	-	-	-
25. Diarrhoea under 2 years	-	-	-
26. Appendicitis	-	-	-
27. Other digestive diseases	2	2	4
28. Nephritis	1	0	1
29. Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis.....	-	-	-
30. Other maternal causes	-	1	1
31. Premature birth	-	2	2
32. Congenital malformation, birth injuries, infantile diseases ...	2	3	5
33. Suicide	2	-	2
34. Road traffic accidents	2	-	2
35. Other violent causes	2	1	3
36. All other causes	11	17	28
TOTALS	95	94	189

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES
FOR THE AREA.

Public Health Officers.

Medical Officer of Health:	J. Hatton, M.D., D.P.H.,
Chief Sanitary Inspector:	G. H. Williams, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.
Assistant Sanitary Inspector:	J. B. Franks, A.R.San.I.
Clerk :	B. Ruddlesden.

The Medical Officer of Health is also Medical Officer of Health to the Urban District Councils of Hoylake and Neston.

Laboratory Facilities.

Ambulance Facilities.

Nursing in the Home.

Treatment Centres and Clinics.

Hospitals, Public and Voluntary.

There has been no change in these services during the year.

Legislation in Force.

No new Acts or Bye-Laws have been adopted during the year.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water.

The District is supplied by the West Cheshire Water Board, whose supplies are controlled by frequent chemical and bacteriological examinations. All samples analysed during the year have been reported as very satisfactory.

Drainage and Sewerage.

Parts of Heswall, Irby, Pensby and Thurstaston are sewered to the North Wirral Outfall; parts of Heswall, Irby, Pensby and Barnston to the Fender Valley Sewer; Gayton and parts of Heswall to the Dee.

As a result of the rapid growth of the District, the Sewerage arrangements are inadequate. A scheme to remedy this inadequacy is in abeyance as a result of the outbreak of hostilities.

Rivers and Streams.

No cases of pollution were reported during the year.

Closet Accommodation.

There are no privy middens in the District.

The following premises are provided with pail closets:-

Permanent Dwellings	- 18
Temporary Structures	- 82

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Refuse Collection

Constant supervision of this branch of the service is very necessary and a checking and timing system is in operation to ensure efficiency.

The continued calling up of employees for service with the armed forces made it impossible to maintain a regular weekly collection of refuse and during the year a fortnightly collection was inaugurated. The majority of the residents have co-operated with the new arrangements and the number of complaints received during the year have been infinitesimal.

Refuse Disposal.

During the year the whole of the refuse has been disposed of by controlled tipping at the rear of the Glegg Arms Hotel.

At present, approximately 2,550 tons of refuse are being disposed of each year and at this rate the existing tip will be completed in three years.

Salvage.

The District continues to set an excellent example in the collection of salvage and the enthusiastic work of the voluntary workers has been maintained.

S T A T I S T I C S.

Weight of refuse per 1,000 population per day:- 6.53 cwts.

Average Weight per bin over the whole year:- 29.65 lbs.

Rate in £	-	Collection (excluding	
		loan charges)	3.10d
		Disposal	1.14d
			<u>4.24d</u>
		Less Net Income from Salvage	.98d
			<u>3.26d</u>

Expenditure per bin collected (excluding	
Loan charges)	2.784d
Less net income from salvage	.866d
	<u>1.918d</u>

(continued)

STATISTICS (Continued)

Expenditure per ton:

Collection (excluding Loan Charges)	17/4d
Disposal	<u>6/4d</u>

	23/8d
Less net income from Salvage.	<u>5/6d</u>

18/2d

Total net expenditure per ton excluding Loan Charges and expenditure for new plant out of revenue.	<u>13/10d</u>
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Expenditure per 1,000 population per annum

Collection (Excluding Loan Charges)	£101.63
Disposal	<u>£ 37.28</u>

	£138.91
Less net income from Salvage.	<u>32.10</u>

£106.81

Expenditure per 1,000 premises per annum

Collection (Excluding Loan Charges)	£365.84
Disposal	<u>£134.21</u>

	£500.05
Less net income from Salvage.	<u>£115.57</u>

£384.48

SALVAGE.

During the year the following materials were salvaged and sold:-

	Tons cwt. qrs.			Value £.
Paper	156	16	1	1059
Textiles	13	15	1	221
Metals	50	16	2	108
Bones	13	3	2	53
Rubber	9	5	0	16
Bottles & Jars	1	19	3	11
Kitchen Waste	179	6	1	271
	<u>425</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1,739</u>

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and the Factories Act, 1937.

Inspections.			
Premises (1)	Number of Inspections (2)	Number of written Notices	Number of Occupiers prosecuted
Factories with mechanical power	37	2	-
Factories without mechanical power	111	15	
Other premises (other than outworkers' premises)	-	-	
Total	148	17	

Defects found.				
Particulars	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M.I.	No. of offences in respect of which prosecutions were instituted.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	13	13		
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-		
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	1	1		
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-		
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	1	1		
Insufficient	2	1		
Sanitary Conveniences unsuitable or defective	-	-		
not separate for sexes	-	-		
Other offences. (not including offences relating to Home Work or offences under the Sections mentioned in the schedule to the Minister of Health (Factory and Workshop Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921 and re-enacted in the 3rd schedule of the Factories Act, 1937).				
Total -	17	16		

INSPECTIONS MADE DURING THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1942.

NUMBER AND NATURE OF INSPECTIONS MADE.		NOTICES SERVED.		RESULT OF SERVICE OF NOTICES.		PROSECUTIONS
		INFORMAL	STATUTORY	COMPLIED WITH	REMAINING IN HAND	
	NUMBER					
Dwelling Houses :-						
Inspected on Complaints ..	1423	37	7	68	19	
Re. Infectious Disease ..	272			2		
Housing Acts on Complaints.	62	3			4	
House to House Inspection .	27					
Overcrowding ..	63					
Tents, Vans, Sheds ..	151					1
Factory and Workshop Acts:-	165	17		18	3	
Underground Bakehouses ..	-					
Other Bakehouses ..	31	9		9		
Laundries ..	-					
Outworkers ..	-					
Workplaces ..	2					
Theatres and Cinemas ..	2					
Cowsheds ..	105	23		23		
Dairies and Milkshops ..	191	31		31		
Milk Samples ..	86					
Food Preparing Premises ..	209					
Fried Fish and Chips shop ..	6					
Ice Cream Premises ..	-					
Water Supply ..	10	4		2	2	
Slaughterhouse ..	-				1	
Keeping of Animals ..	134			1		
Stables ..	5					
Schools ..	79					
Sewers, Ventilators, Etc. ..	16					
Street Gullies ..	15	5		5		
Drains Inspected. ..	396	36		35	5	
Excavations made ..	21					
Smoke tested ..	12					
Water tested ..	6					
Septic Tanks, Cesspools ..	104					
Refuse Collection ..	356					
Refuse Disposal ..	877					
Offensive Accumulations ..	33	1		1		
Rats and Mice Destruction Act	122					
Smoke Observations ..	26					
Smoke Complaints Visited ..	2					
Shops Act Inspections ..	167				1	
Pools, Ditches, etc. ..	124					
Privy Middens, etc. ..	20					
Public Conveniences ..	9					
Licensed Premises ..	6					
Ashpits and Bins ..	40	46	1	49	4	
Street Vendors, etc. ..	6					
Air Raid Precautions :-						
General visits ..	177					
Evacuation ..						
Miscellaneous ..	813					
Salvage ..	852					
Scabies ..	217					
Diphtheria Immunisation ..	45					
TOTAL :	7485	212	8	244	39	1

Shops and Offices.

167 inspections were made during the year to ensure that these premises were being maintained in a satisfactory condition.

Camping Sites.

Number of Tents, Vans, Sheds and Similar Structures in the District for the Year ended 31st December, 1942.

Ward	Vans, Sheds, etc.		Tents (April to September)
	Permanently Occupied	Casually Occupied	
Barnston	2	-	
Gayton	-	-	
Heswall	56	7	
Irby	24	7	1
Pensby	-	-	-
Thurstaston	4	4	2
Total	86	18	3

Smoke Abatement. 25 smoke observations have been made during the year in connection with the two hospitals in the District. At no time did I observe any nuisance from the Cleaver Sanatorium chimney but on eight occasions I found it necessary to visit the Royal Liverpool Children's Hospital and interview the engineer in charge. He attributed the excessive quantity of smoke to the inferior quality of the fuel and the unskilled labour at his disposal. The stokers were instructed in smokeless combustion and there has been a reduction in the amount of smoke emitted from this chimney.

Swimming Baths and Pools. There are no public baths in the District. There is a private swimming bath at a boys' camp and this is provided with a plant for the chlorination of the water.

Eradication of Bed Bugs. It has been necessary to deal with 13 houses which were infested with bugs. These were dealt with by the application of a suitable insecticide. No complaints were received after treatment by this method.

Schools. All the elementary schools have main water supply and are provided with lavatory basins and satisfactory sanitary conveniences.

One temporary school was found to have insufficient sanitary conveniences and to be inadequately ventilated. The ventilation has been improved and additional sanitary conveniences provided.

There are 9 private schools in the District. The supervision of this type of school would be greatly facilitated if legislation provided for a system of licensing.

Housing. During the year 399 houses were inspected for defects under the Public Health or Housing Acts. The limitations of materials and labour made it more difficult to obtain the necessary improvements but in all cases the serious defects were remedied.

Milk Supply. Your Health Department continues to be active in supervising all milk produced or delivered in the District. Early morning visits were paid to all farms whilst milking was in progress and much time was spent after ordinary working hours to ensure that the various requirements of the Milk and Dairies Act and Orders were being complied with.

The milk sampling which is done in this area is more than a casual duty. It is done regularly and systematically and every effort is made to sample all sources of supply at least four times during the year. Copies of the reports from the laboratory are sent to each retailer and producer and there is admirable liaison between this and neighbouring District Councils.

During the year one milk retailer constructed new dairy premises, and structural improvements were effected at four Dairies.

Inspection of Meat and Other Foods. Frequent inspections are made of all premises where food is prepared for sale. On 49 occasions articles of food were found to be unfit for human consumption and voluntarily surrendered.

There are twelve purveyors of meat in the District and these receive constant attention.

The registered slaughterhouse has been closed as a result of the Ministry of Food's scheme for the centralisation of slaughtering.

Adulteration, etc. This work is undertaken by the Cheshire County Council.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

No. of Diphtheria Immunisation Clinics held.	Number of children who completed full course of immunisation between 1. 1. 42 and 31. 12. 42.		
	Under 5 years	5 - 15 years	Total
35	288	198	486

TUBERCULOSIS

No action has been taken during 1942 under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, relating to persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, relating to the compulsory removal to a hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.

New Cases and Mortality during 1942.

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 to 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5 years	1	-	1	1	-	-	1	-
5 - 15 years	1	-	2	1	1	-	-	-
15 - 25 years	1	2	-	-	1	1	-	2
25 - 35 years	3	3	-	-	-	1	-	-
35 - 45 years	2	1	-	1	3	-	1	-
45 - 55 years	2	3	-	-	-	1	-	-
55 - 65 years	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
65 yrs & upwards	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	12	9	3	3	6	3	2	3